

Lucerne needs to be planted on the best soils on the farm. ie. Deep well drained soils. It won't persist if planted on soils < 1m and it will quickly die out if it gets water logged. Lucerne does not like "wet feet."

Lime

Lucerne loves a sweet soil with lots of calcium. Therefore, almost regardless of soil pH, I always recommend lime and even possibly gypsum to be incorporated into the soil before planting. I won't apply lime to soils with a pH > 7.0. The amount of lime to be applied will depend on soil analysis, but less on sandier soils and more on heavier soils. I would be quite happy to say that 2-3 tons lime is probably what is required. The gypsum will help in taking some of the Ca & Mg down the soil profile where the plant will benefit from it.

Phosphate

Because Lucerne has a deep root system, its surface feeder roots (0-20cm) are not as densely populated as say maize or grasses. Therefore also being a legume, it has a high P requirement. The soil P tests should be > 30 ppm (Brey 1) or more. Therefore, because it is a strong perennial crop that should last > 5 years, you only really get one good shot to get the P incorporated into the 0-20 cm zone. Therefore, I often recommend that 250 – 300 kg/ ha of MAP or 300 kg/ha 6.28.23 is broadcast out and disced in.

Potassium

As with P, Lucerne requires high levels of K and removes +- 7 kg K₂O per ton hay removed. Also to allow the lucerne plants to compete aggressively against the invasive grasses that do eventually smother the Lucerne, high levels of K also need to be applied before planting. I suggest apply 200 – 300 kg/ha KCL and disc in. Or the blend mentioned above could also do.

At Planting

Immediately after planting, spray the seed bed with KYNOPOP at 10 kg/ha . Will boost germination.

Maintenance

After every harvest or every 2nd harvest it is a good idea to top dress the Lucerne with 50 kg MAP+ 50 kg KCL or 100 kg Supers+ 50 kg KCl.

You can use either the Veggie Oemff Fruit or the Soya Oemmf as foliar sprays as well . Apply at 4-5 kg/ha.

Foliar Sprays.

Lucerne loves Boron and Molybdenum. You can use either the Veggie Oemff Fruit or the Soya Oemf as foliar sprays as well . Apply at 4-5 kg/ha.

Regards

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MAGUIRES